

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM UPDATE



House Armed Services Committee -- Duncan Hunter, Chairman

November 13, 2003

Success Is Our "Exit Strategy"

The only "exit strategy" for U.S. forces in Iraq is success, but the coalition is well on its way to achieving that aim, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said this week.

He said success in Iraq is defined as turning sovereignty back to a duly elected, representative government.

Part of that is the Iraqis taking responsibility for their own security, he said, and the Secretary stressed that Iraq is now the largest contributor to security forces in the nation – more than 130,000 members of the police, the Civil Defense Corps, the Border Guard, the facilities protection service and the new Iraqi army.

But Rumsfeld said coalition forces will remain in Iraq and help bring security to the nation. He said the enemy is changing its tactics and the coalition leadership is responding.

More than 90 percent of the attacks against coalition and Iraqi targets are centered in the Baathist Triangle area delineated by Baghdad, Ar Ramadi and Tikrit, Rumsfeld explained. "The military leadership there is constantly adjusting the techniques and

procedures and tactics that they use to suit the security situation on the ground," he said.

Rumsfeld said the major accomplishment of the war on terrorism to date has been the liberation of 23 million people in Iraq and 28 million people in Afghanistan. He said the Taliban in Afghanistan stunted that country's people, and the regime in Iraq was particularly vicious.

"We saw videotapes of them cutting off people's hands and fingers, and chopping off their heads, and throwing them off the tops of buildings, and cutting off tongues," Rumsfeld said. "Those people are now free and liberated from that regime."

Still, the Secretary said, Iraq remains a dangerous country and the coalition must be prepared for a "difficult, long, low-intensity conflict we're going to have to work our way through."

How the coalition proceeds operationally is up to the battlefield commanders, the Secretary said. "I've got a lot of confidence in them," Rumsfeld said. "They are convinced we've got the right force levels and the right types of forces."

To Quote

"Two years into the war on terror, the will and resolve of America are being tested, in Afghanistan and in Iraq."

Again, the world is watching. Again we will be steadfast; we will finish the mission we have begun, period."

- President Bush

Nov. 11, 2003



Soldiers returning from Iraq are welcomed home by Korean War veterans at the airport in Baltimore. (Washington Post)

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The Largest Coalition Ever Built

Operation Iron Hammer

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THE LARGEST COALITION EVER BUILT

On September 12, 2001, the United States began building a coalition in support of the global war on terrorism. Today that coalition consists of 70 nations.

To date, 21 nations have deployed more than 16,000 troops to the U.S. Central Command's region of responsibility. This coalition of the willing is working hard every day to defeat terrorism, wherever it may exist.

In Afghanistan alone, our coalition partners are contributing nearly 8,000 troops to Operation Enduring Freedom and to the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul – making up over half of the 15,000 non-Afghan forces in Afghanistan. The war against terrorism is a broad-based effort that will take time.

Every nation has different circumstances and participates in different ways. This mission and future missions will require a series of coalitions ready to take on the challenges and assume the risks associated with such an operation.

Coalition forces have made important contributions in the war against terrorism across the spectrum of operations. Particular contributions include, but are not limited to, providing intelligence, personnel, equipment and assets for use on the ground, air and sea. Coalition members also provide liaison teams, participate in planning, provide bases and grant over-flight permissions – as well as sizable contributions of humanitarian assistance.

Afghanistan Update

Coalition forces commenced *Operation Mountain Resolve* this week.

The purpose of Operation Mountain Resolve is to destroy and disrupt anti-coalition forces and deny sanctuary to them. The coalition undertakes such operations in support of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan when necessary to accomplish its objectives in the war against terrorism.

Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division air-assaulted into the Nuristan and Kunar provinces on Friday Nov. 7 to clear the area of anti-coalition and anti-government fighters.

Iraq Update

Iraqi children this week led soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division to two improvised explosive devices (IED) in Mosul, and soldiers discovered a third device before it exploded.

In the first incident, two children led members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team to two IEDs near the Qayyarah Civil Military Operations Center at about 7 p.m. on Nov. 11.

In the second incident, a patrol from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team found an unexploded IED in Mosul near one of the five major bridges at about 8:15 p.m.

The continued efforts of the citizens of Mosul to turn in weapons and identify hostile areas to Coalition Forces help maintain stability and security in the area.

1st ARMORED DIVISION STRIKES BACK IN OPERATION IRON HAMMER

The 1st Armored Division kicked off *Operation Iron Hammer* Nov. 12 with two separate actions on enemy forces.

The first strike occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the vicinity of Abu Ghuraib. A van suspected of launching mortar attacks against Coalition sites was given chase by ground forces. The van made stops at several sites. Aerial support followed the van out of the village and an AH-64 Apache helicopter conducted an attack on the vehicle. The attack resulted in 2 KIA, 3 WIA, and 5 individuals captured. At a search of the first site where the vehicle stopped, 1st Armored Division soldiers recovered one 82mm mortar launch tube. A search of the other sites is ongoing.

The second strike occurred at approximately 9 p.m. in the vicinity of Al Sadia when an AC-130 Spectre Gunship targeted an abandoned warehouse suspected by intelligence reports to be used to plan and launch attacks on Coalition Forces in the vicinity. There are no reports of personnel in the vicinity of the warehouse at the time of the attack. The building was destroyed.

Operation Iron Hammer is a joint operation to target enemy operating areas, deny the enemy the opportunity to stage weapons for use against Coalition Forces and the citizens of Baghdad, and destroy enemy forces conducting enemy mortar attacks against Baghdad.

All information in this issue is unclassified. Sources include Department of Defense and media reports.